



***This Month:***

- Catholic Schools Week
- Constitution Preparation
- Sports!
- 4th Grade Geography
- Three Kings Day

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## Kicking Off Catholic Schools Week

By Martin Caravateanu, 6th Grade

After my short interview with school principal Edward Renas, I learned a lot more about the Catholic Schools week including a special surprise next week because of no detentions for all January. If you forgot the schedule, it will be shown at the end of this article. After the interview, I learned that this year the Catholic Schools week theme is going to be, "You are the light of the world." This was a reminder from the archdiocese that we are all supposed to bring Jesus into our life. This year, there is also a special breakfast event for all Pre-School families on February 2, 2017. There is also going to be a special surprise sometime next week that Mr. Renas says that he

will not want to spoil the surprise until the time comes, so start guessing.

The schedule will be shown below:

Sunday January 29th - 11:00 Family Mass - Open House/ Scholastic Book Fair 12:00- 1:30.

Monday January 30th - Pajama Day.

Tuesday January 31th - Spirit Day, Scholastic Book Fair, All School Bingo.

Wednesday February 1th - Wacky Wednesday. Scholastic Book Fair.

Thursday February 2th - Your choice - Mus-

tache Day or character shirt day, Ice Cream Social, Book Fair, Pre-School Breakfast.

Friday February 3th - 8:00 All School Mass. Annunciata Day-wear your favorite school shirt or jersey. 1:00 Dismissal



## 4th Grade State Project

By Esteban Rocha, 4th Grade

Fourth graders are busy working on their state projects. Mrs. Stahl has every student choose 3 states that interest them. Then, Mrs. Stahl assigns the students a state from their list so that everyone has a different state to

report on. Fourth graders need to research their state and write a report on a tri-fold poster board. We have been learning about U.S states and regions this school year, and working on this project will not only be fun

and -creative but it will help us learn more about our U.S. states. I am super excited to have Arizona as my state project because I have family that live there! I can't wait to present my board to the class!

# Rough Patch for 8th Grade Boys Basketball

By Samantha Sellers, 8th Grade

The eighth grade boys' basketball team recently started their season and they aren't doing as well as predicted. Under the coaching of Mr. Baker, Anthony's father, their record is 1 and 14...not too good. The other day, I interviewed Anthony Baker about the team and how the season was going. He had an inside look into some of the struggles of the season. I asked him what he thought was going wrong and he gave me a few reasons. First of all, he told me that the team's defense needed

some work because that is essentially half of winning the game. Also they aren't very cohesive and need to work better as a team. They have too many players that want to be the "Michael Jordan" of the team. I then asked him how he thought they could improve and I got some informative answers. He thinks they could benefit from more discipline and teamwork. If they had more people passing and moving the ball around, they would have more opportunities to score. As of right now, they just have ball handlers

who do a bunch of fancy moves and then throw up worthless shots. Going into the season, A.J. was confident because there are many talented players on the team, but now looking at how they are doing they have a few aspects to work on.



## 8th Grade Volleyball Update

By Alicia Plebanski, 8th Grade

The girls' 8th grade volleyball team is having a good season; we could be doing better but we are in high brackets in both leagues that we compete in. We have a team of 9 girls, including 7 who played last year and 2 playing for the first time. The two new girls are Amber Belan, and Felicity Sierra. The other girls on the team are Sara Araujo, Marie Benavidez, Joharis Figueroa,

Alisa Nametak, Samantha Sellers, Katie Zaragoza, and myself, Alicia Plebanski. We are coached by my mom, Erica Plebanski. We have practice at least twice a week and we play one night during the week and on Saturdays. We have won more games on Saturdays then we have won on Tuesdays. Both leagues we are in challenge us and help us to see what we need to im-

prove in. We work a lot on our digs and blocks and our serves. Everyone on the team is important and we have all shown improvement. Our biggest challenge is working together and talking to one another on the court. Hopefully with more practice and with the regular season coming to an end we can go into playoffs and maybe bring home a championship.

## 6th Grade Basketball Enjoying Competition

By Brian Barragan, 6th Grade

Recently, I spoke with David Meduga and Matthew Biron about their basketball team and to find out how their season was going.

David likes the times when he is playing with his friends. "I joined the team because I played since third grade and I wanted to have

fun." David said his team is great to play with. "Yes we are doing well, but we can improve." Matthew Biron has also enjoyed playing this season. "My favorite thing about basketball is having fun playing the sport, and playing with my friends. I like the fun things we do together as a team,

like playing scrimmages." Matthew especially likes the fun they have in practice, working drills and scrimmaging each other. "That makes all of us happy when we have a great practice."

## I Have a Dream: Profiling an American Hero

By Morgan Unold, 7th Grade

Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream, where all the people of the world, no matter their race or color, could work hand in hand peacefully. We are reminded of Mr. Luther's dream every January 16th. He was a courageous, intelligent, and generous person who stood up for what he believed in even though many people did not agree with his views. I can only imagine what risks he took and how much heart it took to do what he did. While

Martin Luther King remains an inspiration to many people, his work is not done. Things have gotten better and changes have been made. But I believe we must continue to pursue his dream. Each day we need to remember that all people are the same and deserve the same treatment. We can honor him by living our lives in peace and taking a stand when we see injustice. Every day we can choose to make the world a

better place for everyone!

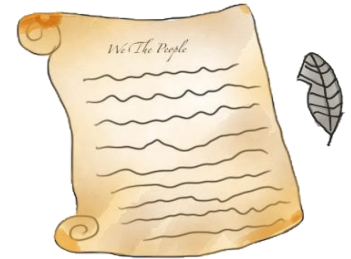


## 7th Grade Prepares for Constitution Test

By Lysette Valdez, 7th Grade

Every year the 7th grade class takes the Constitution test. There are two parts of the test. The first one is the federal portion and the second is the state (Illinois). Right now we are in the middle of preparing for the federal exam. So far we have learned about the Bill of Rights and the three branches of the government. My favorite part about learning the Consti-

tution is that you can learn the rights you have in the United States. This test is very important because it determines if you can graduate junior high school. So far we have taken two quizzes and one pop quiz and they have gone pretty well. With the help of the 7th grade teacher, Mr. O'Connor, I'm sure we will all pass. Good luck to my 7th grade classmates!



**Wishing all Annunciata students and families a terrific Catholic Schools Week!** —Annunciata Faculty & Staff



## We Three Kings Day Traditions

By Aidan Rocha, 6th Grade

We Three Kings Day is a holiday celebrated January 6th worldwide in Spain, Latin America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Hispanic communities in the United States. This is the epiphany of the Church calendar, 12 days after the Magi arrived bearing gifts for baby Jesus. Traditionally, children receive gifts on this day, brought by the three kings Melchor, Gaspar, and Baltazar. In Latin America, children receive their gifts on January 6th, not necessarily Christmas. In Latin America and Puerto Rico children exchange gifts on Three Kings Day rather than Christmas. In the days leading up to Three Kings Day, children write let-

ters to the Magi requesting a toy or a gift that they would like. On the night of January 5th children in Mexico place their shoes out with a bit of hay in them to feed the animals of the Magi. The most iconic tradition that is celebrated worldwide is the eating a Rosca de Reyes (Kings Ring). A Rosca de Reyes is a sweet bread shaped like a reef, with candied fruit on the top. Inside the Rosca de Reyes is a figurine of a baby Jesus. The person who gets the figurine of the baby Jesus is expected to host a party on Dia de la Candelaria (Candlemas) on February 2nd. Children usually receive candy or gifts on Three Kings Day.

Bad kids usually charcoal or even dirt! In Mexico, Latin America, and Puerto Rico, people hold many festivals and parades to celebrate Three Kings Day.



## A Profile of Google

By Evelyn Robles, 6th Grade

Google is very important to our society because people depend on it so much. Larry Page and Sergey Brin met at Stanford University in 1995. They founded Google in 1998; can you believe that the innovative, multi-national company

was started in a garage? It employs more than 57,000 people and is estimated to be worth over 82 billion dollars. Google has had a big impact on how we use technology in our lives today and it is constantly changing. Google also owns several other successful technology companies, such as

YouTube. Google is continuously upgrading their systems and will continue their groundbreaking work well into the future.

## Video Game Review: Star Wars Battlefront

By Matthew Biron-Sweat, 6th Grade, and Lucas Polovina, 7th Grade

Star Wars Battlefront is a first-person shooter game made by Dice and EA. It takes place in the Star Wars universe. It features many characters from the Star Wars series. It also shows many weapons from the Star Wars series including the fa-

mous lightsaber and more. There are also many different villains such as Darth Vader, The Emperor, and Boba Fett. Then there are also many heroes such as Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Han Solo. It is an awesome game to play with

friends. We would recommend this game to any fan of Star Wars, as well as video game lovers in general. With good graphics and exciting game modes, this is a must-play for any gamer.



## Back From the Bay

By Athena Alcalá, 6th Grade

This January my father and I went to San Francisco. We did many fun things while there. The first night we were there, I got to cross the Bay Bridge at night when it was all lit up.

The next day we went to Fisherman's Wharf with my sister Rosemary. We got some of their famous bread bowls filled with chowder. After walking around for a while we found an attraction called the "San Francisco Dungeon." My sister and I had lots of fun walking through the horror maze. On our third day there we went to China Town where we ate at a restaurant called "The Floating Sushi Boat." They bring you all types of sushi in little boats that circle a river that is in the center of the table.

My last day in San Francisco was probably my favorite. My father, sister, and I all woke

up early and went to the Golden Gate Bridge. It was very foggy, but I took some very nice pictures that will be inserted with this article.

After going to the Golden Gate Bridge we went into Japan Town very quickly before we went to the airport. We went into the Japan Center Mall to try their famous "Dragon Breath" that they sold in an ice cream shop called Chocolate Chair. They make the ice cream with liquid nitrogen so their ice cream Dragon Breath gets the consistency of cereal. Because it is frozen with liquid nitrogen it gives the effect of smoke coming out of your nose and mouth. To some it tastes like Captain Crunch Cereal, but to my sister and I it tasted like sour Skittles.



## Popular Songs of 2016

By Christopher Wedryk, 5th Grade

There were some really talented artists with great songs in 2016 and I will talk about some of them and share their popularity. First, "Closer" by the Chainsmokers featuring Halsey, has 126,062,537 views on YouTube so far. Next we have the song "Let Me Love You" by DJ Snake featuring Justin

Bieber, and this song has 357,990,662 views on YouTube. Third on the list is "Don't Wanna Know," which is a single written by Maroon 5 and has 154,536,642 views. Next we have "Heathens" by the band Twenty One Pilots, which was recorded for the movie Suicide Squad. Other songs that

were popular include "24K Magic" by Bruno Mars, "Treat You Better" by Sean Mendes, The Weeknd's "Starboy," and the hits "One Dance" and "Fake Love" by Drake. These were all big hits in 2016 and will continue to be popular in 2017.